AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5   1.   A method for billing a Buyer [of] for telecommunication service [for call attempts

presented to a telecommunication switch, associated with a switching point on a

telecommunication network, routed to] provided by a first [Carrier] Provider of a plurality

of [Carriers] telecommunication Providers in accordance with [economic incentives arrived

at through] a bidding process involving a central processor, referred to as a Moderator,

10   comprising the steps of:

   a.   in the Buyer, formulating a request for telecommunication service over at least one

route, or at least one route segment, on at least one telecommunication network during

at least one specific future time interval and transmitting the request to the Moderator;

   b.   in the Moderator, processing the request and distributing a processed request to a

15   plurality of [Carriers] telecommunication Providers;

   c.   in at least [the first Carrier] a portion of the plurality of telecommunication Providers,

receiving the processed request, formulating [a] bids in response to the processed

request and transmitting the [response] the bids, including economic incentive data, to

the Moderator;

20   d.   in the Moderator, receiving the [responses from at least the first Carrier, entering the

economic incentive data from at least the first Carrier in the Moderator's database,

and] bids, processing the [economic incentive data to generate carrier selection data]

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bids to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the Moderator as first bidding data;

e. in the Moderator, transmitting at least a portion of the [economic incentive] first bidding data [contained in the response received by the Moderato,] to at least [a] the portion of the plurality of [Carriers] telecommunication Providers;

f. in the Moderator, designating at least the first Provider to provide telecommunication service over the at least one route or the at least one route segment;

g. in the Moderator, processing at least a portion of the information contained in the request, the identity of the Buyer submitting the request, the identity of the first [Carrier] Provider fulfilling the request, and at least a portion of the economic incentive data included with the bid transmitted by the first [Carrier] Provider to the Moderator in response to the request, to produce a billing record and storing the billing record in a billing database; and

h. in the Moderator, processing the billing record to generate a bill for telecommunication service associated with the request.

Claims 2-7 (deleted).

8.   A method of claim 1 in which at least a portion of the processing and communication functions of the Moderator are performed by an adjunct computer.

Claims 9 – 45 (deleted)

46.(new)   A method for creating a bidding process among telecommunication Providers in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of telecommunication Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of

the plurality of telecommunication Providers to provide telecommunication service,

wherein the method comprises:

a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide telecommunication service

over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at least one

5   telecommunication network, processing the bids to produce processed bid data, and

storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer

as first bidding data;

b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first bidding data to

at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication Providers; and

10   c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of

telecommunication Providers as a first designated Provider to provide

telecommunication service over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at

least one telecommunication network.

15   47. (new)   A method of Claim 46 in which the processed bid data includes Provider

designation data.

48. (new)   A method of Claim 47 in which the Provider designation data includes

designation of the first designated Provider.

49. (new)   A method of Claim 47 in which the Provider designation data includes

20   designation of at least one alternate Provider.

50.(new)   A method of Claim 47 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a

portion of the Provider designation data to at least one telecommunication switch for use

in routing at least one call attempt.

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51. (new)   A method of Claim 46 in which at least the first designated Provider is a default

Provider or a contract Provider.

52. (new)   A method of Claim 46 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a

portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

5   53.(new)   A method for creating a bidding process among telecommunication Providers in

which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of

telecommunication Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of

the plurality of telecommunication Providers to provide telecommunication service,

wherein the method comprises:

10   a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide telecommunication service

over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at least one

telecommunication network, processing the bids to produce processed bid data, and

storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer

as first bidding data;

15   b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first bidding data to

at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication Providers;

c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of

telecommunication Providers as a first designated Provider to provide

telecommunication service over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at

20   least one telecommunication network;

d. in the moderating computer, transmitting Provider designation data to at least one

telecommunication switch; and

e. in the at least one telecommunication switch, routing at least one call attempt in

accordance with the Provider designation data.

54. (new)   A method of Claim 53 in which the Provider designation data includes

designation of at least one alternate Provider.

5   55. (new)   A method of Claim 53 in which bidding rules specify that all bids indicate a

specific future time interval during which the telecommunication service is to be

provided.

56. (new)   A method of Claim 53 including, in the moderating computer, transmitting at least

a portion of the first bidding data to the at least one end user or to at least one reseller.

10   57. (new)   A method of Claim 53 comprising, in the moderating computer, receiving

decision rules from an administrator associated with the moderating computer or from an

administrator associated with at least one subscribing switch or from at least one end user

or from at least one reseller, processing at least a portion of the first bidding data and at

least a portion of the decision rules, and designating at least the first designated Provider

15   for the provision of telecommunication service.

58. (new)   A method of Claim 53 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a

portion of the first bidding data to at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication

Providers subsequent to designating at least the first designated Provider to provide

telecommunication service.

20   59. (new)   A method of Claim 53 in which at least the first designated Provider is a default

Provider or a contract Provider.

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60. (new)   A method of Claim 53 in which one or more adjunct computers perform at least a

portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer or

the at least one telecommunication switch.

61. (new)   A method of claim 53 in which the moderating computer or the at least one

5   telecommunication switch is operated by a local access telecommunication service

provider.

62. (new)   A method of Claim 53 comprising, in the moderating computer, processing the

bids in accordance with bidding rules to produce processed bid data.

63. (new)   A method for creating a bidding process among telecommunication Providers in

10   which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of

telecommunication Providers, processes the bids and communicates with a first

subscribing switch, thereby enabling the first subscribing switch to designate at least one

Provider of the plurality of telecommunication Providers to provide telecommunication

service, wherein the method comprises:

15   a.   in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide telecommunication service

over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at least one

telecommunication network, processing the bids to produce processed bid data, and

storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer

as first switch data;

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b. in the moderating computer or the first subscribing switch, transmitting at least a first

portion of the first switch data to at least a portion of the plurality of

telecommunication Providers;

c. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a second portion of the first switch

5   data to the first subscribing switch;

d. in the first subscribing switch, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of

telecommunication Providers as a first designated Provider to provide

telecommunication service over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at

least one telecommunication network; and

10   e. in the first subscribing switch, routing at least one call attempt in accordance with

Provider designation data.

64. (new)   A method of Claim 63 in which the first portion of the first switch data is the

same as the second portion of the first switch data, or includes the second portion of the

first switch data, or is included in the second portion of the first switch data.

15   65. (new)   A method of Claim 63 in which the moderating computer is a computer adjunct to

the first subscribing switch.

66. (new)   A method of Claim 63 in which the first subscribing switch is operated by the

moderating computer, or by an administrator associated with the moderating computer, or

by at least one end user, or by at least one reseller, or by a local access

20   telecommunication service provider.

67. (new)   A method of Claim 63 comprising, in the first subscribing switch, receiving

decision rules from an administrator associated with the moderating computer or from an

administrator associated with the first subscribing switch or from at least one end user or

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from at least one reseller, processing at least the second portion of the first switch data

and at least a portion of the decision rules, and designating at least the first designated

Provider for the provision of telecommunication service.

68. (new) A method of Claim 63 in which at least the first designated Provider is a default

5   Provider or a contract Provider.

69. (new) A method of Claim 63 in which the first subscribing switch designates at least

onr alternate Provider.

70. (new) A method of Claim 63 in which the moderating computer or the first subscribing

switch transmits at least the first portion of the first switch data to at least a portion of the

10   plurality of telecommunication Providers subsequent to the first subscribing switch

designating at least the first designated Provider to provide telecommunication service.

71. (new) A method of Claim 63 in which at least a portion of the processing and

communications functions of the moderating computer or the first subscribing switch are

performed by one or more adjunct computers.

15 72. (new) A bidding Moderator for enabling designation of at least one Provider of a

plurality of telecommunication Providers for the provision of telecommunication service,

comprising:

a. a computer with a processor and a memory;

b. means for receiving, from each Provider of a plurality of telecommunication

20   Providers, bids to provide telecommunication service over at least one route, or at

least one route segment, on at least one telecommunication network;

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c. means for processing the bids to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in the memory as first bidding data;

d. means for transmitting at least a first portion of the first bidding data to at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication Providers; and

5   e. means for transmitting at least a second portion of the first bidding data to at least one telecommunication switch for use in routing at least one call attempt.

73. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for making the first portion of the first bidding data the same as the second portion of the first bidding data, or for including the second portion of the first bidding data in the first portion of the first bidding data, or for

10   including the first portion of the first bidding data in the second portion of the first bidding data.

74. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for designating at least one Provider of the plurality of telecommunication Providers as a first designated Provider to provide telecommunication service over at least one route, or at least one route segment, on at

15   least one telecommunication network, and including means for including Provider designation data in at least the second portion of the first bidding data.

75. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 74 in which the Provider designation data includes designation of at least one alternate Provider.

76. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for receiving decision rules from an

20   administrator associated with the Moderator or from at least one administrator associated with at least one subscribing switch or from at least one end user or from at least one reseller, and applying at least a portion of the decision rules to at least a portion of the

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first bidding data to designate at least the first designated Provider for the provision of

telecommunication service.

77. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for transmitting at least a portion of the

first bidding data to at least one end user or to at least one reseller.

5   78. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for transmitting at least the first

portion of the first bidding data to at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication

Providers subsequent to designating at least the first designated Provider to provide

telecommunication service.

79. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for designating a default Provider or a

10   contract Provider as at least the first designated Provider.

80. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for at least one adjunct computer to

perform at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the

Moderator.

81. (new)   A Moderator of Claim 72 including means for processing the bids in accordance

15   with bidding rules to produce processed bid data.

82. (new)   A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of

telecommunication Providers, comprising:

a.   collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of telecommunication Providers, bids to

provide telecommunication service over at least one route, or at least one route

20   segment, on at least one telecommunication network;

b.   processing the bids to produce processed bid information;

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c. distributing at least a first portion of the processed bid information to at least a

portion of the plurality of telecommunication Providers;

d. transmitting at least a second portion of the processed bid information to at least one

telecommunication switch;

5   e. designating at least one Provider of the plurality of telecommunication Providers as a

first designated Provider to provide telecommunication service over at least one route,

or at least one route segment, on at least one telecommunication network; and

f. routing at least one call attempt over the at least one route or the at least one route

segment in accordance with at least the second portion of the processed bid

10   information.

83. (new)   A method of Claim 82 in which each of Steps a. - f. is accomplished by means of

computer processing.

84. (new)   A method of Claim 82 in which the first portion of the processed bid information

is the same as the second portion of the processed bid information, or includes the second

15   portion of the processed bid information, or is included in the second portion of the

processed bid information.

85. (new)   A method of Claim 82 in which at least the first portion of the processed bid

information is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of telecommunication

Providers subsequent to the designating of at least the first designated Provider to provide

20   telecommunication service.

86. (new)   A method of Claim 82 in which the designating of at least the first designated

Provider is performed by a moderating computer or by the at least one

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telecommunication switch or by at least one computer adjunct to the moderating

computer or to the at least one telecommunication switch.

$a3$ 87. (new)   A method of Claim 82 in which at least a portion of the bidding process of Steps

a. through f. is conducted in accordance with bidding rules.

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